

Economic Development Center, and the County and City of Los Angeles' Housing Department have been able to service the needs of the Spanish speaking residents in my district through his translation skills and his technical assistance.

Mr. Speaker, Mark Belfortti's work exemplifies the commitment and dedication of all unsung heroes who give of their time selflessly to improve their community. Mr. Belfortti's involvement is invaluable for nonprofit organizations with scarce resources and for communities with critical needs. For these reasons, I urge my colleagues to join me in saluting Mark Belfortti for all his work.

THE INTERCULTURAL CANCER COUNCIL [ICC] OFFERS NEW HOPE FOR CANCER'S GREATEST VICTIMS

HON. HENRY BONILLA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 17, 1995

Mr. BONILLA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to report an important step forward in cancer research and medical affairs. The newly formed Intercultural Cancer Council [ICC] will be a leader in helping the Nation find solutions to why some of our largest population groups suffer from cancer at much greater levels than others.

In the United States cancer will become the leading cause of death within the next several years. Partly because of the progress made against cardiovascular diseases; and partly because of the greater incidence of more than 200 different types of cancer. The ICC explains that by far the highest incidence and lowest survival rates from cancer are found in our minority and medically underserved populations.

For instance, while we can be thankful that breast cancer detection, treatment, and survival is now improving significantly for the Nation, for African-American women it has actually become worse. Among Hispanics and native Americans cervical cancer takes lives at a rate far above the national average. This for a disease that can often be cured on an outpatient basis—when detected early. Alaskan Americans and native Americans are the leading victims of lung cancer, which remains among the cancers most resistant to treatment. Prostate cancer is several times more common in African-American men compared to white men from the same socioeconomic group. We don't yet know why Asian Americans have such a high rate of liver cancer, or exactly why Asian-American women have an increasing rate of breast cancer.

The ICC was formed earlier this year to help explain the disparities in where and why these cancers strike, and what steps may be taken to save the lives that would otherwise be lost in the future.

As a Texan, I am particularly proud that the founders and cochair of the ICC are department heads from two of my State's finest medical institutions. Lovell Jones, Ph.D. is from the M.D. Anderson Cancer Center at the University of Texas, and Armin Weinberg, Ph.D., who is also a cancer researcher, is from the equally prestigious Baylor College of Medicine. In addition the Dallas-based Susan

G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation is one of the original sustaining members of the ICC.

To this life affirming effort the ICC brings an impressive breadth of membership and expertise that crosses all racial and ethnic lines. The ICC includes institutions and advisers from the American Cancer Society, National Hispanic Leadership Initiative on Cancer, Howard University, American Indian Physicians Association, National Appalachian Leadership Initiative on Cancer, American Association for Cancer Research, the Kellogg Company, American Public Health Association, Bosom Buddies, YWCA, Harlem Hospital, Association of Asian Pacific Community Health Organizations, National Coalition for Cancer Survivorship, and the Institute of Medicine, among others.

The ICC will be a valuable asset to public education as well as to Congress and government agencies such as the National Institutes of Health, National Cancer Institute, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. A major objective of the ICC is to help institutions develop prevention, treatment, and research policies so that American medicine free of racial tensions. The ICC believes that the practice of medicine can be a positive example for other institutions.

We must allocate select resources where the disease is most prevalent. For cancer this means special study on why specific populations are so much more vulnerable. Finding these answers is good medicine because it will allow us to more effectively prevent or cure cancer throughout our entire population. Besides being good science, this approach reflects the best in America by showing special compassion for the most vulnerable among us.

Many population groups face economic restraints in obtaining the early detection and successful treatment of cancer. This is only a minor part of the reason for cancer's disproportionate impacting these groups, though it is sometimes used an excuse not to do the critically needed research into the many genetic, cultural, and epidemiological causes of cancer.

Mr. Speaker, some of our House colleagues can testify on being cancer survivors. Others are thankful that they have a loved one with them today who a few years ago would have been lost because the best that science and medicine then had to offer would not have been enough. Unfortunately, everyone in our society does not benefit equally from this life-saving progress. The significantly higher incidence of cancer, and lower survival rate among minorities, culturally diverse, and medically underserved communities is a human tragedy. It is also an unnecessary burden on the Nation since so many of these deaths, are avoidable.

There are many unknown reasons for these tragic imbalances. I am pleased that we now have the ICC to help us seek the answers to these life and death medical matters.

TRIBUTE TO KATIE C. LEWIS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NATIONAL EDUCATION FUNDING SUPPORT DAY

HON. EVA M. CLAYTON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 17, 1995

Mrs. CLAYTON. Mr. Speaker, today I take great pride in paying tribute to a great educator, her staff and students. November 16, 1995, was National Education Funding Support Day, and I had the great pleasure of visiting the Katie C. Lewis Elementary School located at 300 Bryant Street in northwest Washington, DC.

Mr. Speaker, in this day and age of drastic educational budget cuts and the deluge of bad news about our education system, it was a great pleasure to spend time with students and faculty that are interested, motivated, and excited about education.

The principal, Joyce L. Thompson, showed great pride in her school, her students, faculty and their well-being. Although the school sits in the midst of a neighborhood that is plagued by drugs and violence, when you step inside the doors of Katie C. Lewis Elementary School you find a haven of caring and concern. The hallways are clean, the rooms are brightly decorated, and the children are happy to be at school and are engaged in the learning process.

The sight of so many bright-eyed students eager to absorb the lessons of the day and teachers who are enthusiastic about teaching is in stark contrast to the images we get of schools.

Mr. Speaker, I am delighted to have participated in such an important event as National Education Funding Support Day and even more delighted with the opportunity to spend time in the company of Principal Thompson and the staff and students of the Katie C. Lewis Elementary School.

TRIBUTE TO RETIRED ASSOCIATE JUSTICE ROSALIE WAHL

HON. JIM RAMSTAD

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 17, 1995

Mr. RAMSTAD. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to retired Associate Justice Rosalie Wahl of the Minnesota Supreme Court, an outstanding jurist and an exceptional human being.

When Justice Rosalie Wahl was appointed to the Minnesota Supreme Court in 1977, she was the first woman to serve on Minnesota's highest court. Years later, she saw the court become the first in the Nation with a majority of women justices. And in the surest sign of progress, she retired last year in an era when a woman's appointment to the bench was no longer a big news story.

From the moment Rosalie Wahl became an associate justice, she hit the ground running and quickly earned a reputation as a tireless worker and a thoughtful, compassionate jurist. Justice Wahl faced a tough election battle less than a year after she took her seat, and Chief Justice Sheran offered to reduce her caseload. However, she declined because of her